Chattooga River Watershed Coalition

The Chattooga Quarterly

SPRING ◆◆◆ 1998

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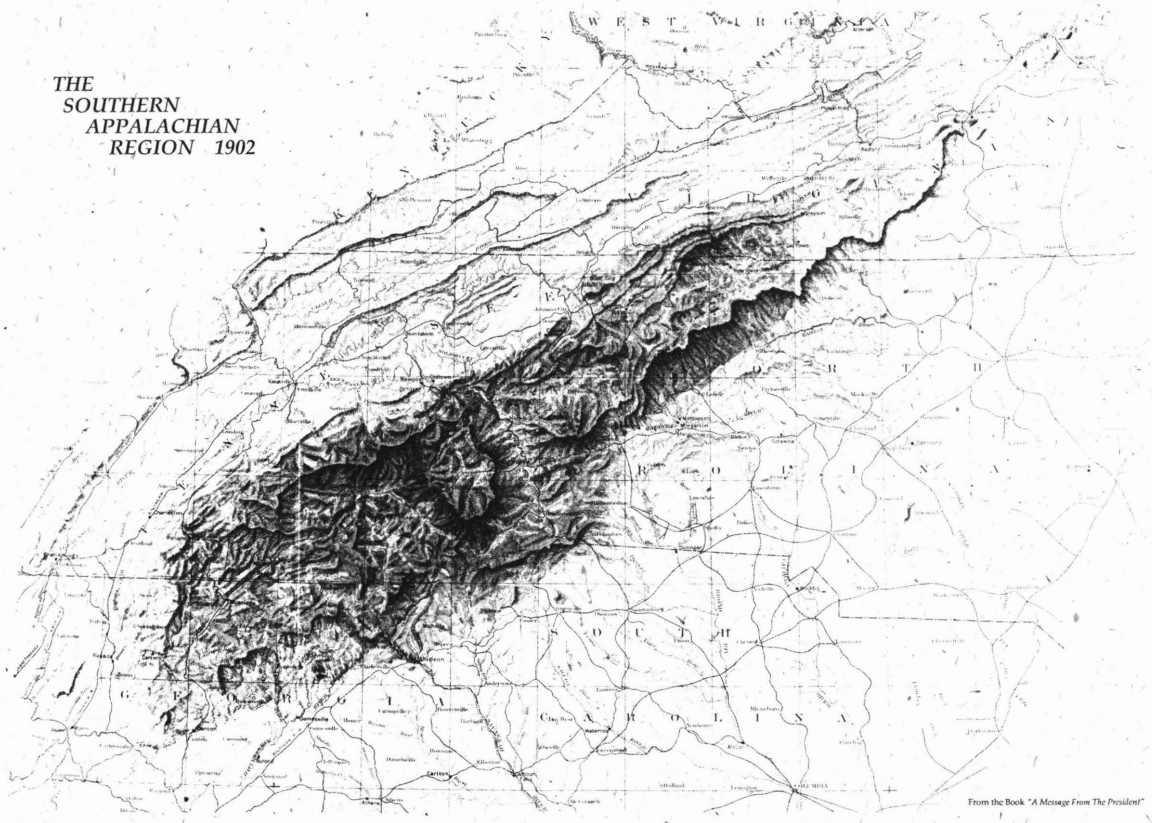
Watershed Restoration Revival



Map of the Southern Appalachian Mountains
from A Message from the President, December 19, 1901

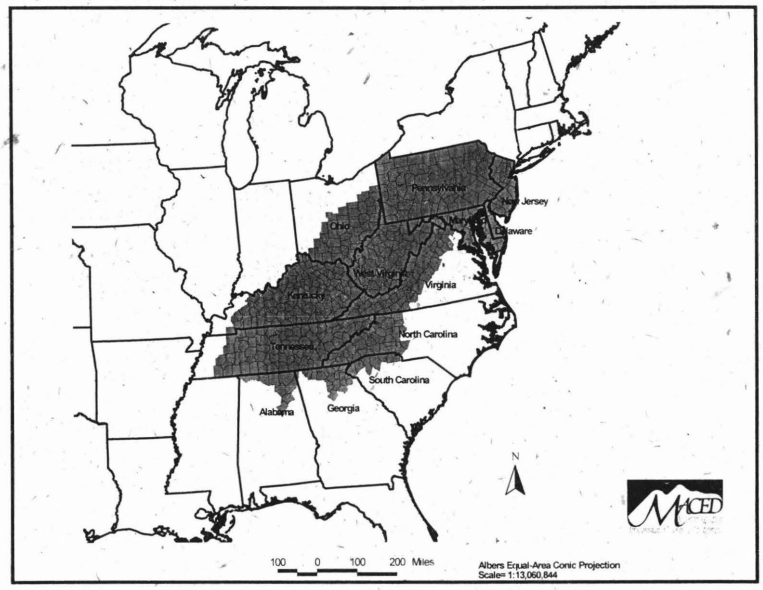
I n s i d e . . .

Director's Page

Buzz Williams, Executive Director

Several years ago after a long day of business in a big city, I thought I was on my way to my hotel when I realized that the train was going in the opposite direction. Recently, I got that same sinking feeling when it became apparent that the forestry "certification working group" I was a part of was headed in the wrong direction. The options were about the same as those for having gotten on the wrong Metro line: ride it out, or jump off the train. So just as I was preparing to jump, I discovered the possibility that there existed yet a third option to turn things in the right direction.

Certification of forest products has turned out to be one of those ideas that is too good to be true. Everybody endorses it; tree cutters and tree huggers, consumers, and especially the philanthropic community. As a result, the certification idea was not so much a train as a bandwagon. Simply stated, certification is an assurance given to the consumer that the forest products which they purchase come from forests that have been managed according to environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable systems. Great theory! The conservationists get healthier forests, the forest managers get a new marketing tool and increased market shares, the consumer may be less guilt-ridden, and the funders get that most prized victory, where everybody is a winner. What went wrong?



Appalachia Certification Working Group of the FSC US Initiative

In April of 1998, I became a member of the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) Certification Working Group for the Central Appalachian Region. The FSC is an international non-profit organization based in Oaxaca, Mexico, which accredits forest certification organizations in order to guarantee the authenticity of their claims. The FSC is membership-based with 180 members representing social, economic and environmental interests from 35 countries.

Forest certification by FSC standards would depend on a system where a landowner or forest manager would voluntarily submit to an annual audit of forest management practices as well as a chain of custody assessment. The forest products organization who met approved standards would then be allowed to label their product "certified". The goal of this process is to create positive incentives for better forest management. Of course, the whole thing would depend on the standards and how well they were enforced.

In the spring of 1997, 19 of us from conservation organizations, academia, and the forest products industry met to work on the standards. Sample standards and indicators were compiled from various certification programs used around the world. These standards were then matched with FSC Principles and Criteria. Our job was to choose or create those standards which could be used to "verify" appropriate forest management for our region.

From the outset, the group was dominated by the more vocal industry representatives who fought every attempt to include even the vaguest reference to a prescriptive verifier, instead insisting on those which allowed for the most discretion. This was unacceptable to me and several others in the group because the section on natural forest management, for example, needed clear guidance for just what the "natural processes" should be for our bioregion. There were other areas of concern. First, the continuum of forest management covered under certification ranges from clearcuts and tree plantations to relatively undisturbed natural forests. The range of ecosystems is from the Pine Barrens of New Jersey to the mixed mesophytic forests of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. One simple standard covering so much ground across this many ecosystems is meaningless.

Finally, in April of this year when the draft standards were released for public comment, I along with another member of the working group expressed our concerns that the standards were too discretionary. We stated that we could not sign on to the document in good conscience. Since then I have decided to ask you, the public, to help in turning this good idea into a reality. The Draft Certification Standards can be found on the internet at "http:\\ www.maced.org".

Please make your comments today!

Letters to the Editor

February 10, 1998

Dear Editor:

Some time ago I was given a copy of the Summer 1997 *Chattooga Quarterly* ["From Cultural Heritage, A New Land Ethic"]. I enjoyed reading it as I live in northern Habersham County, near Tallulah Falls. Since I have lived here most of my life, I am familiar with a lot of the area you wrote about. My reason for writing, though, is concerning the article which referred to Fannie Smith ["Memoirs of Andrew Gennett, Lumberman"]. Perhaps Mr. Gennett thought of her as a "notorious old woman," but she is my great grandmother and even though she died before I was born, we grew up hearing stories of her. However, none of her family considered her to be as described above.

Fannie Pickleseimer Kerby Smith at her homeplace on Camp Creek

She was born Fannie Pickleseimer, and always told her children she was half Cherokee. Her father settled on the river near Dillsboro, North Carolina, and since there were mostly Indians living in the area at the time, her mother could have been an Indian maiden. Regardless, her father gave her away after his wife died, and the Bill Wilson family in Translyvania County, North Carolina, raised her.

She married Rufus Kerby at the age of 16, and they lived in Union County, Georgia, until his death around 1849 or 1850. She then moved with four small children to Rabun County, Georgia, and married Ambrose Smith. They were given a tract of land by the government in the southeastern end of Rabun County. It included what is now the Camp Creek Community, and I believe it stretched to the Chattooga River—some 640 acres.

Your article stated that she was an efficient and successful housewife, and she surely must have been—in addition to the four children by her first marriage, she and Ambrose were blessed with seven more. So I can see what a task it was to simply make food and clothes for a family of that size. I'm sure the corn that was made into liquor was their "money crop." However, it was not against the law to make liquor then, and how else were they to get shoes for eleven children and salt, sugar, and coffee for the household?

But she did not lack for other ideas to provide for her household. It was after the older children were married and gone that she hit on the idea to take in boarders. I think most of them may have been "day trippers," as Tallulah Falls was a resort town and the train brought people there from all over. Probably to have something to do, they would hire buggies and hacks in Tallulah Falls and drive over to see "Sinking Mountain," an honest to goodness mountain where all the top part had sunk. It was near her home, and she fixed dinners for them. "Summer folks" they were called.

Another story that we always liked was one of how she helped some of the Cherokee Indians who were too old to go on the "Trail of Tears," and who managed to hide in caves along the river on the back of her property. This was their home and somehow they managed to survive in the good part of the year, but in the winter when they were near starving, one of them would appear on her doorstep with handmade baskets. She knew they wanted to "swap" for food and being the thrifty person that she was, she was able to feed them, too.

Fannie and her husband were members of Wolf Creek Baptist Church for many years. She was also interested in politics and from stories of her activities, was a friend with some of the elected officials. Many of which I'm sure were glad to sample her "corn squeezings" as they visited and solicited votes.

She was indeed a colorful character, but "notorious" I think not. Her children and grandchildren were taught to work. The girls learned to cook at an early age, and also to card and spin wool into thread, and to weave cloth for clothes. Since they kept sheep, in addition to the hogs, cattle, and horses that were required to run the farm and to provide the labor to produce food, it would seem that there was plenty of work for everyone.

I don't know if you will want to print this in your magazine or not, but I did want you to know that there are usually two sides to every story. Good luck with your magazine.

Sincerely,
Mary Justus Cross Franklin

Letters to the Editor *continued*

April 16, 1998

Dear Editor,

I must point out an unintentional misstatement in Buzz Williams' informative article "Public Land Acquisition in the Chattooga Watershed" (Fall *Chattooga Quarterly*, 1997). In this article Williams describes a 1973 failed land transaction between Dr. George E. Crouch IV and the U.S. Forest Service. Williams' account was based on an error in my book, The Mountain at the End of the Trail, a History of Whiteside Mountain.

In my book I state that I met with Dr. Crouch and his wife in 1974, as a delegate of the North Carolina Nature Conservancy, to inquire about future plans for the Devil's Courthouse property. This date is in error, and because of this error, Buzz Williams, in his *Chattooga Quarterly* article, repeated a conjecture I made in my book regarding the cancellation of the 1973 sale. I speculated that perhaps Dr. Crouch's wife had other plans for the property, as she had intimated to me that she might want to build a house there. The correct year of my meeting with Dr. and Mrs. Crouch was in 1979. I have been informed by Dr. Crouch's widow that they were not married until after 1973 and therefore she could not have been a factor in his cancellation of the sale.

Other points in Williams' article are absolutely true. Due to development pressures, private property values throughout the mountains escalated during the 1970s and 1980s decades. I estimate that at least 100 new summer homes were built in the upper Chattooga watershed in the Cashiers-Highlands area during this period. Land values went up about six times, so that when the Devil's Courthouse property was finally sold to the Forest Service in 1991, the fair market value purchase price was $2.8 million.

The 1991 sale of the Devil's Courthouse tract in itself did not elevate property values; this had already occurred over the preceding 20 years. This was the point that Williams' article was trying to make. Development pressures had driven up land prices in the watershed, so that when the Crouch family did finally sell, the appraised value in 1991 was six times what it had been in 1973. Williams goes on to give several other, more obtrusive examples of this phenomenon of escalating land values in and adjacent to the Chattooga Wild and Scenic corridor.

Sincerely,

Robert Zahner
Highlands, North Carolina

Editor's Note: We appreciate this clarification by Dr. Zahner, and we offer apologies to the Crouch family for any inconvenience caused by this unintentional error.

May 12, 1998

Dear Buzz Williams:

Last week I read a small article in *USA Today* concerning the attempted closing of the Chattooga River. I was quite concerned. After several calls to a family in South Carolina, I received an article from the Greenville newspaper stating that Earl Lovell and Scotty Fain bought 230 acres along GA Highway 28 bordering six miles of the Chattooga River. Having hiked, swam and tubed the West Fork for years I was dismayed to learn attempts were being made to cut it off.

I would appreciate any information you could send me on this situation and what you are trying to do about it. My husband and I feel that with the Chattooga's Wild and Scenic River designation, allowing development is unthinkable.

Sincerely,

Carla Blanton
Wayne Blanton

Editor's Note: Currently, the Chattooga River Watershed Coalition is working with the Forest Service, the US Attorney assigned to this case, and the private sector to defend the public's right to float down this section of the Chattooga River, as well as to acquire the West Fork property known as the "Nicholson Tract". Please see also page 22.

Buzz Williams retrieves the cable and sign from the West Fork, which had dropped into the river creating a hazard.

Forest Service Budget & Appropriation Process

Cindy Berrier

Every year on the first Monday in February, the President unveils his budget to Congress for the coming fiscal year, which starts on October first. This budget will encompass all of the various cabinet and agency budget requests that have been reviewed and finalized by the President for submittal to Congress. Congress will then review, debate, amend, attach riders, eliminate or add to these funding requests. This process begins in March, and can continue all the way through September.

Generally, the final budget contains two types of spending accounts: discretionary or mandatory. The discretionary accounts amount to 33% of all federal spending, and are encompassed in the thirteen annual appropriation bills. Mandatory spending accounts for 67% of all spending and is authorized by permanent laws, not appropriations. Examples of mandatory spending are Social Security, Medicare, Payment to States from the US Forest Service's 25% Fund, food stamps, etc. This discussion examines the US Forest Service's (USFS) budget request for 1999, and includes a comparison table (*please refer to page 6*) showing the agency's budget requests from 1997 to 1999.

The Forest Service's budget is composed of twenty-one discretionary accounts and four mandatory accounts; the various line item accounts are named in the comparison table. This comparison table includes the categories of the discretionary accounts, and these items are further cross-categorized to meet the agency's three goals for compliance to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)[1]. The Forest Service's goals for the GPRA are to "Ensure Sustainable Ecosystems", "Provide Multiple Benefits for People within the Capabilities of Ecosystems" and "Ensure Organizational Effectiveness".

It is likely that the discretionary accounts will be the most debated of all accounts, because this year the Forest Service request shifts more towards ecosystem management and restoration, rather than resource extraction. For instance, the 1999 budget has increased watershed protection and restoration funds by 12%, eliminated Purchaser Road Credits altogether, increased monies for road maintenance and road obliteration by 17%, and decreased timber volume by 6%. The Chief of the Forest Service, Michael Dombeck, has stated his intentions to shift the agency away from being largely synonymous with the timber industry, and more towards natural resource restoration. This change is overdue and enjoys much public support, but undoubtedly the Chief's initiative will be be hard fought by the timber industry as well as certain special interest groups. Furthermore, this proposed shift is opposed by a number of influential Members of Congress who chair or sit on key appropriations committees, and who historically tend to alter, amend or block appropriations that do not favor the narrow special interests which benefit from the Forest Service's federally subsidized timber program.

It is likely that the discretionary accounts will be the most debated of all accounts, because this year the Forest Service request shifts more towards ecosystem management and restoration, rather than resource extraction.

During the budget resolution process, a series of Senate and House committee hearings will evaluate the current requests. The Senate committee for appropriations has thirteen subcommittees; of those, nine will contribute to the final draft of the Senate version of the 1999 Forest Service Budget. The House of Representatives will produce their own version, which will then have to be compared to the Senate version. Differences must be resolved and agreed upon before the proposed budget moves to the President for final approval. It is likely that the present proposed budget will undergo major changes during this process.

In addition, there currently is an uproar in the Senate due to allegations that the Forest Service lacks fiscal accountability and that their funding has been mismanaged for years. Some Members of Congress believe that any additional monies requested—regardless what for—would be like "throwing it in the wind". According to several Government Accounting Office reports citing the "Gross mismangement of Forest Service funds and accounts", these charges are true. Due to this alleged abuse of taxpayer's money it is highly unlikely that positive initiatives, such as additional funds for ecosystem restoration and watershed restoration, will come out of committee meetings. However, Chief Dombeck has demonstrated verbally that changes are being made to correct accounting shortcomings. The months ahead should be very volatile as these allegations are examined further and the 1999 Forest Service Budget is determined.

Note:

1. Vice President Gore promoted the Government Results and Performance Act as a means for the government to work more efficiently and responsibly. The Act requires all branches of the government establish measureable goals to achieve these requirements.

Forest Service Budget *continued*

USDA Forest Service 3-year Budget Comparison

Program Item D= discretionary M= mandatory	**D/M**			
*Dollars are in **Millions***		**1997 Actual**	**1998 Current Estimate**	**1999 Proposed Budget**
Management of the National Forest System				
Land Management Planning / Inventory	D	$130	$128	$119
Recreation Use	D	$211	$218	$239
Wildlife / Fisheries Management	D	$86	$97	$112
Rangeland Management	D	$38	$45	$66
Timber Sales Management	D	$196	$209	$199
Soil, Water / Air Management	D	$42	$51	$64
Landowner Management	D	$57	$62	$59
Infrastructure Management	D	$104	$109	$137
General Administration	D	$259	$263	$259
Other	D	$195	$166	$164
Road Reconstruction and Construction	D	$208	$165	$161
Wildland Fire Management				
Presuppression	D	$319	$319	$319
Supression	D	$211	$265	$235
Land Acquisition	D	$42	$54	$57
Other Accounts	D	$3	$4	$3
Forest and Rangeland Research	D	$180	$188	$198
State and Private Forestry				
Forest Health / Fire Protection	D	$66	$74	$77
Cooperative Forestry				
Forest Stewardship	D	$23	$24	$28
Stewardship Incentives	D	$4	$6	$8
Urban / Community Forestry	D	$26	$27	$30
Other	D	$36	$30	$20
Mandatory Expenses	M	$246	$260	$239
Payments to States, National Forests	M	$234	$261	$248
Payment Funds, Grasslands / Minnesota	M	$5	$6	$7
Trust Funds	M	$237	$262	$250
3-year Comparison Totals:		**$3,158**	**$3,293**	**$3,298**

Interview with Dr. Art Cooper

Interview conducted by Buzz Williams

In my work as a conservationist, one name keeps appearing—Dr. Art Cooper. I first became aware of Dr. Cooper's work while researching scientific studies of the Jocassee Gorges area of the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Dr. Cooper's paper, co-authored with Dr. James Hardin and entitled "Floristics and Vegetation of the Gorges on the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment", is a landmark work on the flora of the Blue Ridge Escarpment. The study was issued in March of 1971 and was ahead of its time in that Cooper and Hardin explored the idea of plant migration patterns of species in the Southeast.

Earlier this year, I met Dr. Cooper after hearing his testimony before the newly formed Committee of Scientists, which was assembled by the US Department of Agriculture for the purpose of providing scientific and technical advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service on improvements that can be made in the National Forest System Land and Resource Management planning process. Dr. Cooper impressed me as being a scientist who is not afraid to speak out from the "ivory tower" of academia. The following interview was conducted on April 24, 1998, in Dr. Cooper's office at the University of North Carolina in Raleigh.

Buzz (BW): Dr. Cooper, in 1977 you were approached by the Forest Service to serve on a committee that would provide comments on the development of national forest planning regulations, as a result of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). Is that correct?

Dr. Cooper (AC): Yes, I was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture as a result of a process by which the Forest Service got recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences as to what they should do with this committee, and who they should put on this committee.

BW: Is this the committee that came up with what has been called "viability regulations"?

AC: That was one of the many things that we dealt with; there were probably eight or ten elements of NFMA that required a lot of creative thinking to go beyond the mere language of the Act, and that was one of them.

BW: The species viability regulations seem to be at the heart of almost every argument about the management of the national forests. My understanding is that the new regulations proposed by the Forest Service have eliminated the viability requirement. So the current Committee of Scientists that has been appointed to give comments on the implementation of those regulations is struggling to determine what to replace them with. How do you feel about the elimination of the species viability requirements?

AC: That's my understanding too—that the species viability regulations are gone from the draft that the Forest Service has released. My personal opinion is that it would be imprudent to eliminate them. But I am not entirely sure what I would put in their place. I do know that the current Committee is looking at that question, and I'm positive that they are going to make some recommendations. What they will be, we will know in a month.

BW: In retrospect, can the National Forest system really provide for viable populations, or are there too many species gone?

AC: It depends on what kind of species you're talking about. If you are talking about big predators that range over large home ranges, the answers is probably "no". But if you begin to look at things like salamanders, and some species that we don't normally think of as wildlife, the answer is "yes".

BW: The US Fish and Wildlife Service is looking at the Chattahoochee National Forest as a site to reintroduce the Red Wolf. Do you think this is feasible?

AC: There are two elements to making it work. One is whether it will work biologically, and the other is will it work socially; my guess is that it will be easier to make it work biologically than it would be to make it work socially. Although the results of this experiment have been different in different places, they have a god-awful mess with the Red Wolf down in eastern North Carolina. You would think on the face of it that socially, it would be a safe place for them to be, here in the eastern United States. However, there has been an awful lot of very strong adverse social reaction, but biologically the wolves seem to be doing all right. It's my understanding that in the Smokies it is a little different as the wolves have been socially accepted. The Chattahoochee National Forest area strikes me as having the potential for some problems such as people afraid that their children are going to be eaten up by wolves, and their pet dogs carried away.

BW: Getting back to this Committee of Scientists and the implementation the National Forest Management Act, this past February you testified in Atlanta in front of the current Committee, and you gave them some history of what your committee did. You also talked a little bit about some of the things that they might watch out for as far as roadblocks to implementation of national forest planning regulations. You've said that the greatest weakness of the first NFMA regulations was the failure to provide a feedback mechanism; what did you mean by that statement?

AC: What I meant by that was that there was no real

Interview *continued*

development of the part of the planning process that involved monitoring of results, and then feeding that information back into the revision of the Forest Plans. In other words, it seemed the only important accomplishment was to complete and implement the Forest Plan, and then come back at some later time and redo the Plan. There was not a sufficient amount of thought given, and certainly not a sufficient amount of resources devoted to do on-the-ground monitoring to find out what the results of a Plan really were. For example: whether the practices you were putting into place were really having the effects that you estimated they would, or whether they were having some other effect. I think we intellectually ran out of gas when it came to dealing with that part of the process. In other words, I think the Forest Service and the Committee sort of "shot its bolt" on the planning process because after all, we had to construct that out of brand new cloth and there really never was any enthusiasm for dealing with the feed back problem.

We have no history at all in this country of a natural resource management agency or Congress showing a willingness to spend any money finding out the consequences of what we are doing. We are more than happy to spend money doing things, but we're not interested in finding out the results.

BW: You also said that this idea of a mechanism by which the Forest Service can set up an effective monitoring program could not be possible without appropriate funding. Do you see any way for the current system to set up a monitoring program?

AC: The possibility is there; the likelihood of that happening is not terribly great. We have no history at all in this country of a natural resource management agency or Congress showing a willingness to spend any money finding out the consequences of what we are doing. We are more than happy to spend money doing things, but we're not interested in finding out the results.

BW: So is the Forest Service going to have a tough job actually getting this feedback loop implemented, without additional money?

AC: Yes, that is right. Without money or diverting people from other resources and activities to carry it out...now that may be the direction to go. There are some other alternatives that wouldn't be quite as money consumptive as simply going to Congress and asking for new funds for a monitoring program.

BW: We were talking earlier about wolves and looking at the whole landscape and whether or not it was big enough to support those large carnivores. To me, that means some implementation of the concepts of conservation biology; core areas and wildlife corridors and so forth. There were plans that Forest Service had called Regional Plans, and I believe that when you testified before the current Committee of Scientists you also said that the new bioregional plans like the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAA) were a reincarnation of these old Regional Plans. Do you think that the SAA will be used?

AC: I don't know. Maybe I was shooting from the hip when I said they were "reincarnations"—not having seen them. The whole idea of the old Regional Plan was something that was dreamed up in the development of the planning process, because as you know that the NFMA does not call for a Regional Plan. It just calls for the Forest Plan, and then the national Resources Planning Act Assessment and Program. There is no link between them. The Forest Service proposed, and we accepted, the idea of having these Regional Plans as links. The Regional Plans dealt with some of the nasty decisions about things, like the maximum size of clearcuts. It probably isn't fair to say that regional assessments like the SAA are reincarnations of those Regional Plans, yet they certainly have alot of the elements as I understand it. Whether they stand to be implemented or not I couldn't answer without having seen and studied them. The original concept of the Regional Plan was that it really was providing direction for the forest. Regional assessments such as the SAA call for regional action as well as collective actions by a number of different agencies, as I understand it. In that regard, the two things are totally different.

BW: They are different but at the same time, one is regional in scope. Since the new concept is bioregional in scope, this seems to be going more towards the idea of ecosystem management. So in a sense, this could be at least one of the keys to really implementing ecosystem management. As I explained earlier, our organization is promoting this idea of coordinating the revision of the Forest Plans in all three national forests in the Chattooga River watershed. That might be one way of getting at ecological consistency, which means looking at conservation biology. Do you have any comment on the concepts of conservation biology, since it is such a new science?

AC: No, not really. Conservation biology is something I haven't spent a great deal of time thinking about over the last five or ten years. I can say I wish it had existed back when we were writing those original regulations, because it

Interview

would have been of immeasurable help to us then.

BW: I want to switch gears a little bit, to a related subject regarding a paper you did in the 1960's on the vegetation of the Jocassee Gorges. I'm amazed at how current your paper is; for example, in its conclusions you talk about the Blue Ridge Escarpment area as being an area we really need to study, because we may find clues to help us look at the whole landscape, such as the migration of species across the landscape. So back in the sixties you were thinking about conservation biology?

AC: Yes, but in a totally different context. That may sound like prescience, but that was really intended more in the context of an interest I had at that time: the migration of species upward, downward, inward and outward from and within the Southern Appalachians, as a result of the effects of glaciation. At that time the co-author, Dr. Hardin, and I had just written a paper on disjunct species occurring in the lower Piedmont, and which do not appear again until you get into the mountains. My explanation is that there is a slight climatic difference here, and that species simply persisted here as Pleistocene relics. The most classic one is the Hemlock tree. Then, we also had to acknowledge that there was the greatest concentration of botanists in these three counties in the state, so this could possibly be a result of intensive collecting. But at any rate, our interest was in the migration patterns of species in the Southeast and this is what prompted that paper.

BW: Since you have such a keen interest in the Jocassee Gorges, would you be willing to serve on a Committee of Scientists that would make recommendations for maintaining viable populations of species across the Blue Ridge Escarpment?

AC: Sure, if one is set up.

BW: Isn't that directly related to the viability of populations and their ability to migrate across the landscape, if you have long-term climate changes?

AC: Yes, but again my point is that concept is not something that colored our thinking at that time. Even our thinking about climate change or anything like that in the late 1960's was a purely academic interest in why these species occurred, and where they did not, what happened to them? Did the climate change? And that sort of thing.

BW: I think this work will be important in shifting to the next gear, so to speak, of really using this information to implement management systems that could actually maintain viable populations of all species.

AC: One of the reasons we wrote that paper was that both Dr. Hardin and I had a real fascination with the Jocassee Gorges. We worked down in there in the early 1960's and we maintained that strong fascination. Dr. Hardin was for many, many years a member of the Board of Directors for the Highlands Biological Station; in fact, he was President for a while. Then much later on, I was on the Board also. That paper in a sense was an effort to pull together much of the botanical work that had been sponsored by the National Science Foundation, through the Highlands Biological Station from 1960 through 1968.

BW: As you may have heard, Duke Energy Corporation is selling large blocks of that land, tracts which are strategically linked to the surrounding Sumter and Nantahala National Forests. Would you endorse the idea of a collaborative process to actually look at a system that would better maintain viable populations across the landscape, as a collaborative effort between these agencies?

AC: I would hope that is what would happen, when and if those lands are acquired by who ever is going to get them from Duke Energy. It would strike me that that would be one of the important reasons for public acquisition of those lands, to provide those links and serve as a mechanism to fill in some of the holes in the landscape that exist in that area.

BW: Since you have such a keen interest in the Jocassee Gorges, would you be willing to serve on a Committee of Scientists that would make recommendations for maintaining viable populations of species across the Blue Ridge Escarpment?

AC: Sure, if one is set up.

BW: This has been a fascinating conversation, although we have kind of wandered from National Forest Management Act regulations to the viability of populations in the Jocassee Gorges. However, these are two subjects that our readers are keenly interested in.

Interview

AC: Well, they should be, those Gorges are an important part of our landscape and we realized that early on, from a purely botanical point of view. This was the point I was trying to make earlier: from a purely botanical or purely zoological point of view, the knowledge now of the key role that the landscape plays is becoming much more obvious. We didn't have quite the vision to see things that way then, and we have learned alot in the past thirty years.

BW: I have one final question. Seventy percent of the Chattooga River watershed is publicly owned and managed by the Forest Service, and the Forest Service is in a state of change right now with the new regulations for implementing the National Forest Management Act as well as the Forest Plan revisions that are going on. Do you have anything that you could recommend to the Forest Service to help maintain viable populations of species in the Chattooga River watershed?

At the very least, the Forest Service needs to do the best it can to integrate the three Forest Plans so they are all talking strategically about the same problems and proposing solutions to those problems, and that process covers the three forests. Coordinating the Chattooga watershed's three Forest Plans may take real skill...but it strikes me that the rewards would make it worth the effort.

A: The obvious recommendation is one that we talked about earlier. At the very least, the Forest Service needs to do the best it can to integrate the three Forest Plans so they are all talking strategically about the same problems and proposing solutions to those problems, and that process covers the three forests. The second thing they need to do is figure out some way to get the owners of significant private land—by significant I mean in terms of size and strategic location—and try to figure out some non-threatening way of helping these landowners see the value in cooperating with public land management agencies. That's going to take some real skill. Coordinating the Chattooga watershed's three Forest Plans may take real skill too, but it strikes me that the rewards would make it worth the effort.

BW: Dr. Cooper, thank you.

AC: You are welcome.

Biography of Arthur W. Cooper

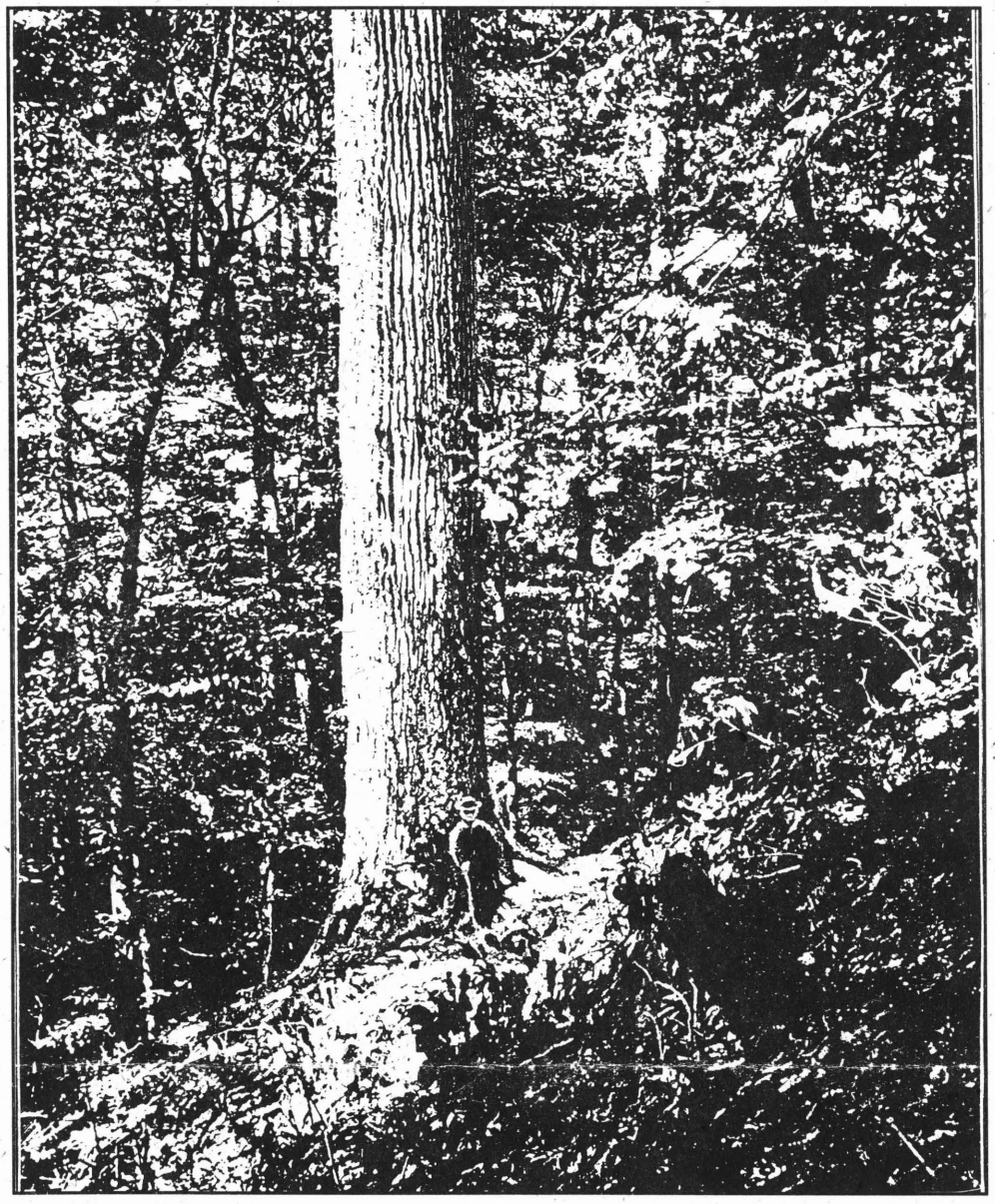
Art Cooper was born August 15, 1931, in Washington, DC. He attended Colgate University in Hamilton, NY, where he obtained his BA in Natural Science and Physical Education in 1953 and his MA in Botany in 1955. He obtained his Ph. D. in Botany, with a major in ecology, from the University of Michigan in 1958.

Cooper became Assistant Professor of Botany at North Carolina State University (then College) in 1958, moving to Associate Professor in 1963 and Professor in 1968. During that time he taught and did research in plant ecology and became active in the growing environmental movement in North Carolina. In 1971 he took leave from the University and became Assistant Secretary for Resource Management in the North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources. His responsibilities included administration of the state's natural resource programs, policy development, and program coordination and planning. In 1976 he returned to NCSU as professor of Forestry. He became department head in 1980 and served in that position until August 1994.

Cooper served as Chairman of the Committee of Scientists, which aided the US Forest Service in writing regulations for implementing the National Forest Management Act of 1976. He has continued to be involved in evaluation of those regulations and has participated in several studies of the Forest Service's response to the requirements of the Resources Planning Act of 1974. From 1976-89 Cooper served as a member of the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission. In 1989 he resigned from the CRC to accept a position on the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission, which he held until 1991. He has served as president (1980) and vice president of the Ecological Society of America in addition to serving as an editor of Ecology and Ecological Monographs. In 1984 he received the Society's Distinguished Service Award. He has been a certified senior ecologist since 1982 and served as a member of ESA's Board of Professional Certification from 1989-91. He was president of the North Carolina Academy of Science in 1978, was chairman of the Appalachian Society of American Foresters in 1990, and was also a member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Forestry Association. Cooper also served for 10 years as a trustee of the North Carolina chapter of The Nature Conservancy and was a member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Environmental Defense Fund, the Southern Environmental Law Center, and the Cradle of Forestry in America. Since 1990 he has been North Carolina State University's Faculty Athletics Representative. From March 1995 to June 1997 he served as Chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Sustainable Forestry.

Message From the President, 1901

At the beginning of the 20th century, the American public became concerned about the deteriorating condition of our watersheds and forests. "Boom and bust" logging had destroyed nearly all of our primeval forests, and in its wake followed floods and fires. Citizens also realized the value of forests as a source of habitat for wildlife, clean drinking water, and for their scenic beauty as well as recreational value.



President Theodore Roosevelt and his Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson made a report to the US Congress dated December 19, 1901, which documented the forest conditions of the Southern Appalachian region. At that time, the idea of a system of forest reserves was being debated as a way to protect our natural resources. This report helped convince Congress to pass the Weeks Act of 1911, which provided money to purchase land and establish what has become our national forests. One of the primary goals of the National Forest system was to "restore watersheds".

Almost one hundred years later, today the American people again are concerned about the continued destruction of our natural resources. In March of this year, Forest Service Chief Michael Dombeck made a speech where he announced that one of the "new" priorities for the Forest Service would be to restore watersheds (see page 13).

This time, let's get it right!

Theodore Roosevelt
To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith a report of the Secretary of Agriculture, prepared in collaboration with the Department of the Interior, upon the forests, rivers, and mountains of the Southern Appalachian region, and upon its agricultural situation as affected by them. The report of the Secretary (James Wilson) presents the final results of an investigation authorized by the last Congress. Its conclusions point unmistakably, in the judgement of the Secretary and my own, to the creation of the national forest reserve in certain parts of the Southern States. The facts ascertained and here presented deserve the careful consideration of the Congress; they have already received the full attention of the scientists and the lumberman. They set forth an economic need of prime importance to the welfare of the South, and hence to that of the nation as a whole, and they point to the necessity of protecting through wise use a mountain region whose influence flows far beyond its borders with the waters of the rivers to which it gives rise.

Among the elevations of the eastern half of the United States the Southern Appalachians are of paramount interest for geographic, hydrographic, and forest reasons, and, as a consequence, for economic reasons as well. These great mountains are old in the history of the continent which has grown up about them. The hardwood forests were born on

Message From the President

their slopes and have spread thence over the eastern half of the continent. More than once in the remote geologic past they have disappeared before the sea on the east, south, and west, and before the ice on the north; but here in this Southern Appalachian region they have lived on to the present day.

Under the varying conditions of soil, elevation, and climate many of the Appalachian tree species have developed. Hence it is that in this region occur that marvelous variety and richness of plant growth which have led our ablest business men and scientists to ask for its preservation by the Government for the advancement of science and for the instruction and pleasure of the people of our own and future generations. And it is the concentration here of so many valuable species with such favorable conditions of growth which has led forest experts and lumbermen alike to assert that of all the continent this region is best suited to the purpose and plans of a national forest reserve in the hardwood region.

The conclusions of the Secretary of Agriculture are summarized as follows in his report:

"1. The Southern Appalachian region embraces the highest peaks and the largest mountain masses east of the Rockies. It is the great physiographic feature of the eastern half of the continent and no such lofty mountains are covered with hardwood forests in all North America.

"2. Upon these mountains descends the heaviest rainfall of the United States, except that of the North Pacific coast. It is often of extreme violence, as much as 8 inches having fallen in eleven hours, 31 inches in one month and 105 inches in one year.

"3. The soil, once denuded of its forest and swept by torrential rains, rapidly looses its humus, then its rich upper strata, and finally is washed in enormous volume into the streams, to bury such of the fertile lowlands as are not eroded by the floods, to obstruct the rivers, and to fill up the harbors on the coast. More good soil is now washed from these cleared mountain-side fields during a single heavy rain than during centuries under forest cover.

"4. The rivers which originate in the Southern Appalachians flow into or along the edges of every State from Ohio to the Gulf and from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. Along their courses are agricultural, water power, and navigation interests whose preservation is absolutely essential to the well being of the nation.

"5. The regulation of the flow of these rivers can be accomplished only by the conservation of the forests.

"6. These are the heaviest and most beautiful hardwood forests of the continent. In them species from east and west, from north and south, mingle in a growth of unparalleled richness and variety. They contain many species of the first commercial value, and furnish important supplies, which can not be obtained from any other region.

"7. For economic reasons the preservation of these forests is imperative. Their existence in good condition is essential to the prosperity of the lowlands through which their waters run. Maintained in productive condition they will supply indispensable materials, which must fail without them. Their management under practical and conservative forestry will sustain and increase the resources of this region and of the nation at large, will serve as an invaluable object lesson in the advantages and practicability of forest preservation by use, and will soon be self-supporting from the sale of timber.

"8. The agricultural resources of the Southern Appalachian region must be protected and preserved. To that end the preservation of the forests is an indispensable condition, which will lead not to the reduction but to the increase of the yield of agriculture products.

"9. The floods in these mountain-born streams, if this forest destruction continues, will increase in frequency and violence and in the extent of their damages, both within this region and across the bordering States. The extent of these damages, like those from the washing of the mountain fields and roads, can not be estimated with perfect accuracy, but during the present year alone the total has approximated $10,000,000, a sum sufficient to purchase the entire area recommended for the proposed reserve. But this loss can not be estimated in money value alone. Its continuance means the early destruction of conditions most valuable to the nation, and which neither skill nor wealth can restore.

"10. The preservation of the forests, of the streams, and of the agricultural interests here described can be successfully accomplished only by the purchase and creation of a national forest reserve. The States of the Southern Appalachian region own little or no land, and their revenues are inadequate to carry out this plan. Federal action is obviously necessary, is fully justified by reasons of public necessity, and may be expected to have most fortunate results."

With these conclusions I fully agree; and I heartily commend this measure to the favorable consideration of the Congress.

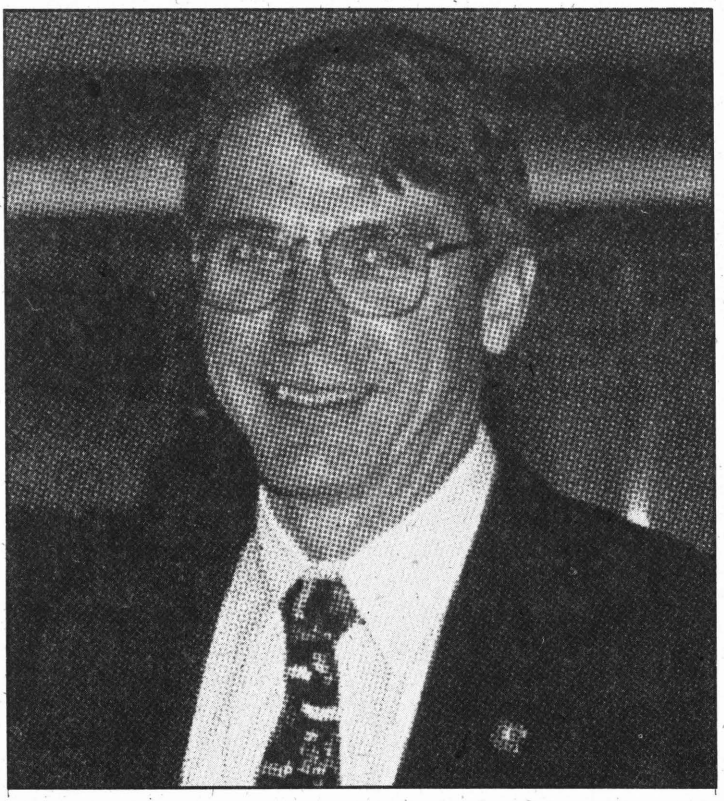
White House December 19, 1901
(excepted from the book of the same title)

US Forest Service Chief Speaks Out

Reprinted with permission from "Common Ground" Vol. 9, No. 9 May/June 1998, and the author, Chief of the Forest Service Michael Dombeck.

This essay was excerpted from a speech delivered to Forest Service personnel by Chief of the Forest Service Michael Dombeck on March 3, 1998.

Social change, shifting priorities and political crosscurrents are buffeting the Forest Service. This is nothing new. Federal forest policy is a "gradual unfolding of a national purpose", as a former Chief said in 1930. That's the premise of our new agenda, which focuses on watershed health and restoration, sustainable forest ecosystem management, forest roads and recreation.



Michael Dombeck, Chief of the US Forest Service

Watersheds: Congress directed in 1897 that "no national forest shall be established, except to improve and protect the forest within its boundaries, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber". While the timber production provision has gotten much attention, the emphasis on watershed protection was prophetic.

The national forests are the nation's headwaters. They protect 900 municiple watersheds. Watershed maintenance and restoration are the oldest and highest callings of the agency. We will make watershed health an overriding priority in future Forest Plans.

Forest ecosystems: Clearcutting on national forests declined by 84% in the last decade. The use of timber sales aimed at restoring ecosystem health jumped 70% in five years. Despite these improvements, we hear calls for a "zero-cut" policy for national forests, something I oppose. National forests should be a model that shows how active forest management can meet economic needs within the ecological limits of the land.

Forest roads: Building forest roads requires a short-term outlay of cash but failing to maintain them does tremendous long-term damage. Our road policy proposals are designed for careful evaluation of where to build roads while getting rid of unneeded ones. We called for an 18-month "timeout" on road construction in roadless areas. In the interim, we plan to develop a procedure to judge when to build roads. But we must maintain roads for public access. About 80% of public use occurs on 20% of forest roads.

Recreation: Recreation is the fastest growing use of the national forests and grasslands. Soon we expect to have over 1 billion recreation visits annually. Our priority is to provide premier settings and experiences for recreationists. We want to accelerate the conversion of unneeded roads to trails. We need to boost funding for fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing and conservation education.

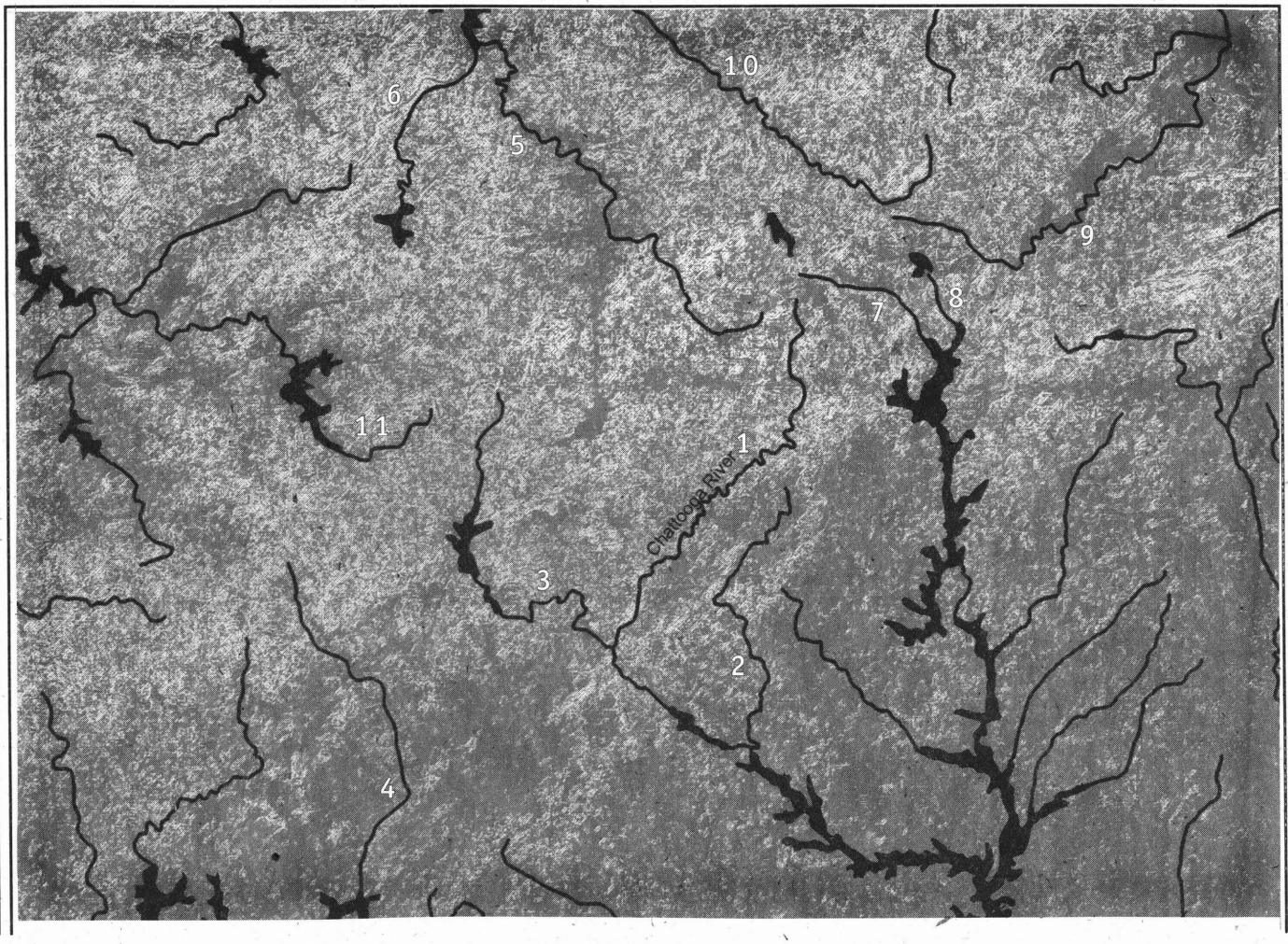
We can't simply preserve our wilderness areas and national parks and by extension, hope to protect our natural resource heritage. We can't manage our national forests and other public lands in isolation. We must work with state and local interests to link neighborhoods to rivers, parks and forests.

We must do more to sustain and restore the whole landscape. If we are smart enough to understand the physics of splitting the atom, surely we can muster the foresight to protect our land and water. If the US can't live in harmony with the natural world, what hope is there for other nations?

This agenda helps chart a new course in conservation, which has become a national priority. Our goal is to live in productive harmony with the watersheds that sustain us. We can leave no greater gift than to pass on healthier, more diverse and productive watersheds to our children.

—Michael Dombeck

Kids Geography Contest: Name the Rivers & Win



CRWC Geography Contest

The Chattooga River Watershed Coalition would like to inspire young geographers by offering this opportunity to **win a trip down the Chattooga River.** The boy or girl who correctly identifies all the numbered rivers in the map above will be eligible to win.

All of the numbered rivers are in the Southern Appalachian region. **Fill in the name of the river next to the corresponding number.**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____

****

Only children under age 18 are eligible to enter.

Please send this form in with your name, address, and telephone number to:

CRWC Contest
POB 2006
Clayton , GA 30525

The Swamp Honeysuckle

Buzz Williams

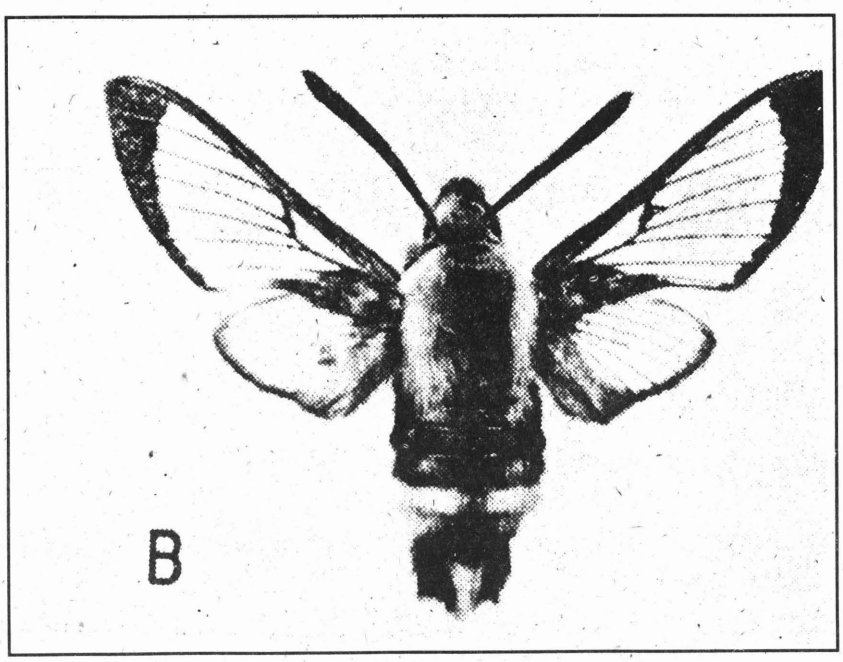
One of my favorite flowering plants during spring on the Chattooga River is the Swamp Honeysuckle (*Rhododendron viscosum)* or as some prefer to call it, the Clammy Azalea. The first thing one usually notices about this small shrub is its intense fragrance. On numerous spring trips down the river as a guide, passengers in my raft would often ask about the sweet, ethereal smell drifting upstream arousing their curiosity long before the showy, funnel-shaped white flowers came into view.

Swamp Honeysuckle (*Rhododendron viscosum)*
Photo by Freddie Lesan

One way to tell the difference between the Swamp Honeysuckle and its look-alike relative, the Smooth Azalea (*R. arborescens)* is by the small hairs that run along the mid-rib of the leaves on the underside. The flowers of Swamp Honeysuckle also have "glutinous"(sticky) hairs, thus the species name *viscosum*, or sticky. The pistil or female part of the plant which produces the seed has a long style with a receptor on the end called a stigma that is much longer and situated in the center of the five pollen-bearing anthers. The leaves are clustered, and the shrub is deciduous. The deep corolla tube formed by the fused base of the five flower petals contains nectar, which attracts many interesting pollinators.

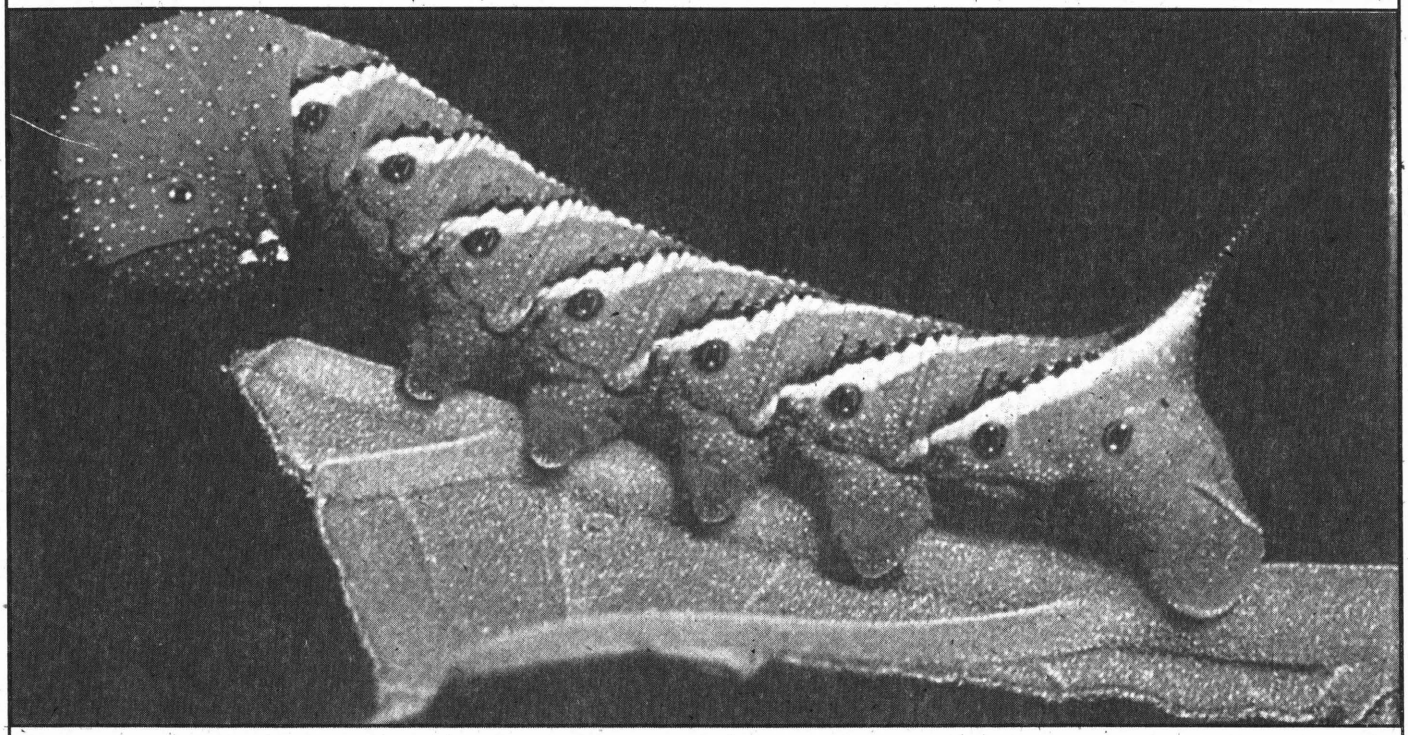
The rhododendrons and azaleas are members of the heath family (*Ericaceae)* which also includes the mountain laurel, the vacciniums, huckleberries, doghobbles and a little herb called trailing arbutus. In spring, the heath family dominates the river bank in its full glory of multicolored flowers ranging from red, purple, pink and white. Members of the heath family come in all sizes: herbs, shrubs and small trees.

One of the insects which are attracted to the swamp honeysuckle is the "hawk moth" of the *Sphingidae* family. The hawk moths are equipped with a very long tubular tongue which they use to suck nectar from trumpet-shaped flowers including the Swamp Honeysuckle. Usually, they do not land on the lip of the flowers to feed as most butterflies do but instead, hover like hummingbirds above the flower as they drink up the nectar. In fact, the hawk moths are often mistaken for hummingbirds. One hawk moth is even called the hummingbird moth (*Hemaris thysbe).* Personally, I have often confused these hummingbird moths with bumble bees. Also, the hawk moths



The clear-winged sphinx or "hawk moth" (Hemaris diffinis) is a likely pollinator of the swamp honeysuckle.

Swamp Honeysuckle *continued*

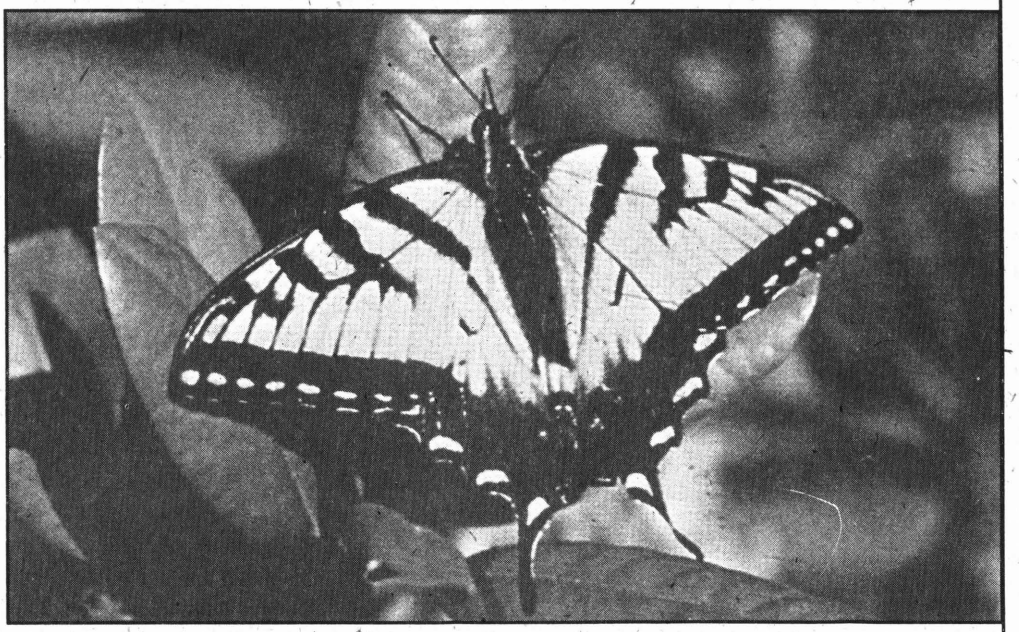


Tobacco Hornworm (Manduca sexta) is a member of the sphinx moth family and exhibits the distinctive horn on its posterior.

on the Chattooga seem to be more black and white than some found other places. One author speculates that it is the hawk moths which actually transfer the pollen from the anthers to the stigma, because they are in a better position to rub against the anthers as they hover over the flower drinking nectar.

The larva of the some of the *Sphinidae* are often very conspicuous with a large horn-like projection from the top side of the eighth abdominal section, and are called "horn worms". The "sphinx" name comes from the sphinx-like position often assumed by the larvae.

We all have a tendency to look at one species at a time when we study nature. As you can see from this brief exploration of the Swamp Honeysuckle's natural history, it is a part of a much more interesting ecological niche. So the next time you stop to take a look at an attractive flower or animal, look around for the other things around it including not only other plants and animals, but its habitat as well.

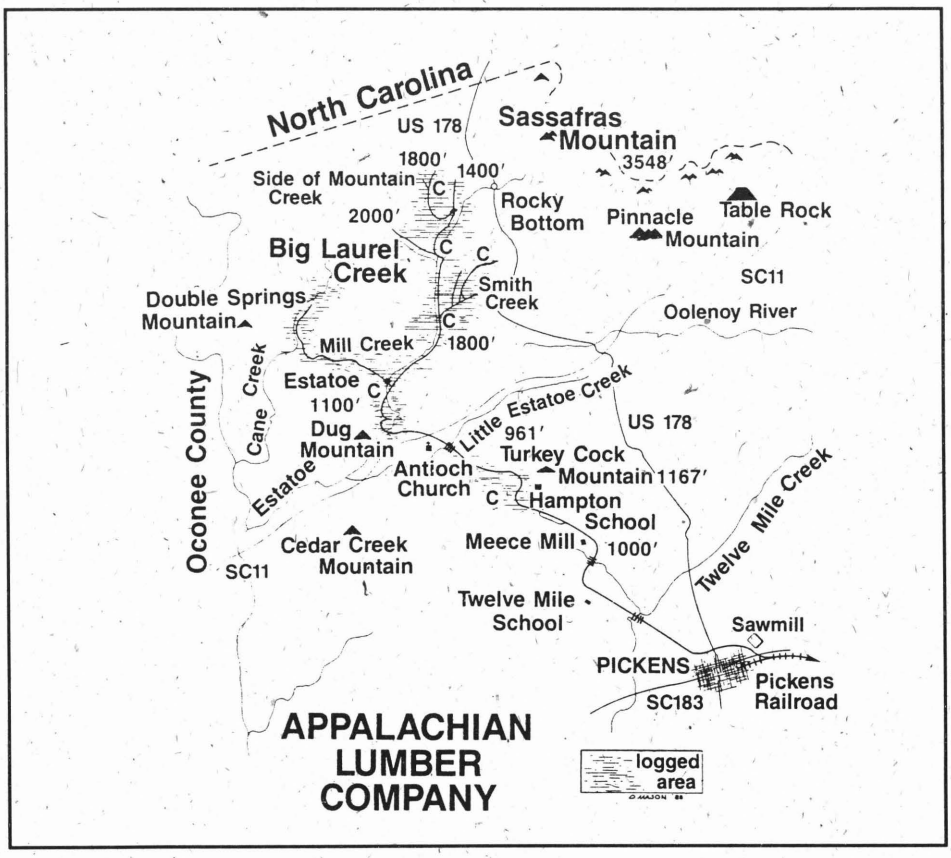


Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (Papilio glaucus) is often seen feeding on nectar from the Swamp Honeysuckle.

Loggers of the Blue Ridge Mountains

Reprinted with permission from Heimburger House Publishing, Forest Park, Illinois.

Unlike all the other areas that supported forestry and timber removal, the northern section of both Pickens and Greenville counties [in South Carolina] becomes rapidly mountainous as the land transcends from the rolling Piedmont Hills to the high country of the Blue Ridge Mountains. While not as forbidding as the Rockies of the West, the Blue Ridge presented a formidable barrier along the North Carolina state line where the rise is so rapid as to almost form an escarpment. No railroad in this immediate area was able to cross into North Carolina, and few improved roads were able to accomplish what the railroads could not.



There were two significant logging operations in the Blue Ridge Mountains on the South Carolina side of the state line. While North Carolina and Tennessee crawled with loggers in the Blue Ridge, the terrain in South Carolina limited accessibility to the timber.

The Southern Railway main line between Charlotte and Atlanta through South Carolina follows the border of the Blue Ridge Mountains within about five to ten miles. It was difficult, if not impossible, for the conventional main line railroads to gain foothold on the mountains except for the two crossings that were built: the Saluda Grade to Asheville out of Spartanburg; and the Clinchfield crossing at Altapass, which also originated at Spartanburg. One line tried to breach the mountains out of Greenville and the other out of Easley, South Carolina, but these railroads became short lines that depended on timber for their livelihood when faced with the virtual escarpment that lay in their path.

The state line between North and South Carolina in the Piedmont area was placed along the effective natural barrier between the states, where the land rears upward from the South Carolina Piedmont to the upper high lands of the Blue Ridge. This barrier stopped the Blue Ridge Railroad in its tracks just outside of Walhalla, South Carolina as it squirmed along the hillsides, twisting and turning to gain elevation, tunneling where necessary, and leaping ravines and valleys on the tall bridges--that never were built, as the railroad expended its funds on the Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel project. This was the grand scheme of the city of Charleston that had financed the railroad to reach the Ohio River with a direct route, but the barrier of Stumphouse Mountain was mightier than the capitalists of the City by the Sea.

Benedict Love Company

Organized logging first began in the northwestern part of South Carolina when the Benedict Love Company purchased some 46,519 acres of Pickens County and Oconee County timberland from R. E. Bowen in the early 1900s. After several years of removing some of the easiest timber, the land was sold to R. E. Wood, the president of Montvale Lumber Company.

Montvale Lumber Company

Montvale Lumber Company operated primarily in Pickens County between 1904 and 1909, and continued the procedure of removing the timber closest to the existing roads and trails in the area.

Carolina Timber Company

George A. Hume formed the Carolina Timber Company in 1909, and began operations in both Pickens and Oconee counties using former Montvale Lumber Company property that Carolina Timber purchased in June of that year. The first purchase was for over 20,000 acres of the better, uncut Montvale timberland and timber rights that extended across the state line into Transylvania County of North Carolina.

Logging *continued*

Aggressive in its acquisitions, Carolina Timber then purchased 23,000 acres with timber rights from M. E. Olmsted. Two years later, Carolina Timber purchased the remainder of the Montvale Lumber property, some 26,000 acres in the far northern part of Pickens County known as the "Mountain Lands" that had not been cut by earlier operations. Besides this 69,000 acres, Carolina Timber Company held land and timber rights to greater than 175,000 acres at one time.

Carolina Timber activity removed the better virgin timber from its land over the next sixteen years, using horses and mules working with logging wagons to haul the timber to the mill over the rough roads and trails. By 1927, Hume saw that his company had to invest in rail transportation to reach the remote "Mountain Lands" or sell the land to another organization because the easy days of cutting timber had passed.

Appalachian Lumber Company

Three New York capitalists saw an opportunity to develop the remainder of the timber and formed the Appalachian Lumber Company on January 12, 1927, by filing for a charter with the state. File 15059 chartered the company for the purpose of selling timber and lumber, and the buying and selling of real estate, general timber and timber trade. The officers were Leon Isaacsen, president (New York City); D. W. Von Bremen, vice president and treasurer (New York); and E. L. Lambert, secretary (New York). It was Lambert who came to Pickens and served as Appalachian Lumber's purchasing agent. Carolina Timber sold 164,000 acres of its land, including the "Mountain Lands", to Lambert, who also purchased land from forty-five individuals in Pickens County.

Appalachian Lumber issued $1.6 million in capital stock to back the operation. The stock sold quickly in the bullish period, and Appalachian Lumber was quick to convert the money into tangible assets. The company built a huge, triple-band sawmill near the northern city limits of Pickens in the Town Creek area. The company then purchased the existing common carrier Pickens Railroad, which ran from Pickens to Easley, South Carolina on the main line of the Southern Railway. It was over this local line that Carolina Timber shipped its lumber to the outside markets, and Appalachian Lumber resolved to control the short line to protect its access to the market. Possession of the Pickens Railroad gave Appalachian Lumber assured access to the Southern Railway, as well as giving the company a share of the originating freight charges from the total transportation bill.

The Pickens Railroad was chartered in 1890 and originally was to run from Pickens through Easley to Anderson, South Carolina, where it could have reached the Charleston & Western Carolina Railway. The line, as built, ran only to Easley and opened in 1898 with one locomotive, one passenger car and three freight cars. *The Doodle,* as the train was known, ran backwards from Easley to Pickens like a doodlebug because there was no means for turning the train at either end of the line.

The Pickens Railroad hauled supplies into Pickens and hauled out lumber and brick. At one time, the brickworks was making 50,000 bricks a day, which were shipped throughout the South. The company was typical in its day-to-day operations of many other Southern shortline railroads that existed to link a courthouse town to the nearest main line railroad.

Appalachian Lumber realized that it needed a logging railroad to reach the land that it now controlled since it lay 20 to 30 miles northwest of Pickens. The company purchased a number of 40-foot strips of land as right-of-way and soon laid 60-pound rail out of Pickens over a route that later was forgotten.

As built, the logging railroad ran through the Looper Bottoms area and crossed a trestle near Twelve-mile School. It then ran up Mill Shoals Creek behind Meece's Mill, and on towards Hampton School. It passed the schoolhouse and then paralleled Nine Times Creek, which was named for a dirt road that crossed from bank to bank nine times to ease the construction. The railroad then passed Antioch Church and left Nine Times Creek to continue on to Peach Orchard Branch, a small stream where the company built a switchback to reduce the grade as the line climbed around Pine Mountain and continued on to the valley of Big Eastatoe (east-ta-TOE-e) Creek, which it followed north to headwaters.

W. R. "Tucker" Cantrell graded much of the line as it was laid out, and Appalachian Lumber crews followed laying ties and the rails with assistance of some of the Pickens Railroad men. Railroad spurs were built from main line along Big Eastatoe Creek up several tributary creeks: Mill Creek; Smith Creek; Big Laurel Creek; and Side-of-Mountain Creek to reach the active cutting areas.

A large sawmill was built by Appalachian Lumber at the junction of the Smith Creek Spur with the main line. This camp covered some 14 acres and soon had a number of cabins for the logging crews, a company store, headquarters house, a logging yard, a shop for the locomotives and the rolling stock, a commissary called "The Lobby", and several other out buildings. The head cook at what became Big Eastatoe Camp was Denton Castle; Hook Stewart was one of the servers.

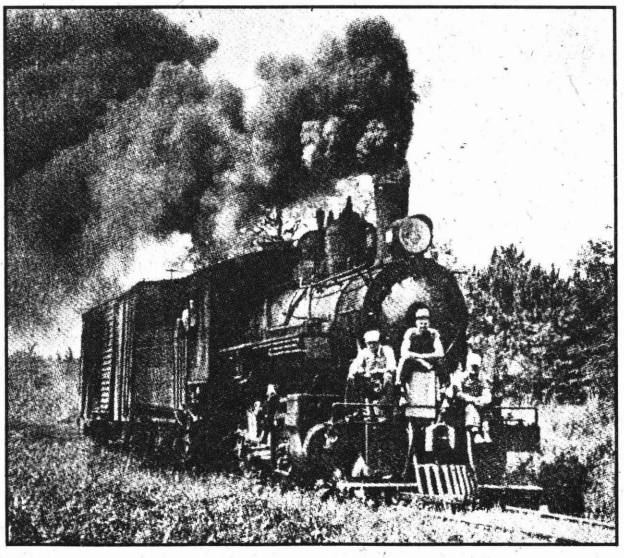
Eastatoe Mill

When the Eastatoe Mill began cutting, the output from the company nearly doubled. Before this, only logs were hauled

Logging *continued*

to the big mill at Pickens, but with the second mill operating, the railroad was able to carry both raw timber and cut timber back to the yard at Pickens. The smaller diameter logs were cut at the Eastatoe Mill, while the huge logs of virgin timber, which stood in these hills prior to the days of Washington, were sent back to the main mill with its triple bandsaw. This machine was able to handle logs up to 60 inches in diameter (as wide across as most men are tall) yielding solid planks of that width, which was an outstanding achievement for that time.

Several other camps were built along the main line. The Hampton Camp was about a half a mile above the Old Hampton School. Some eight to ten families lived here in planked unpainted buildings that provided little more than basic shelter for them. Mill Creek Camp was located at the intersection of that spur with the main line and covered about three acres. The Mill Creek Spur ran upstream as far as the property line of Florence Winchester. Big Laurel Creek Camp was built at the junction of that spur line with the railroad. Further upstream, the last camp on the main line, the Side-of-Mountain Creek Camp was built where that logging spur switch-backed into this other stream.
The last camp was upstream on Smith Creek. This camp covered some 10 acres and include a wye to turn the steam engines. Smith Creek Camp was the terminus of several tram roads and snaking roads that were built by Appalachian Lumber into the more rugged areas.



Approaching Hellam's Crossing, the crew rides the pilot.

The tram road was composed of railroad track laid directly on the ground with little or no ballast or grading. Mules and horses pulled logging cars up the hill to the work/cutting area, where logging cars could be loaded and hauled back to the logging line. A log loader of the American style was used. This machine rode on rails laid on the deck of the empty logging cars. As each car was loaded, the machine propelled itself backwards onto the next empty car and then loaded the car upon which it had been resting.

Another method of moving logs was the skyline system. Here, one of the taller trees was stripped of branches, braced with guys and rigged with blocks that supported cables from a steam donkey back into cutting work areas. Here, bundles of logs were assembled and then hauled back to the rail line through the air via the cable system. While similar systems were used in the swamps of the Low Country, here the cableway was used to quickly cover exceptionally rough country.

A number of snaking roads existed that were little more than dirt trails over which horses or mules pulled the logs out to the main line using a cable or "snake". Often, the snake was hauled in with one of the steam donkey engines. The Peach Orchard Branch, a creek that ran east from the Big Eastatoe, was logged with a tram road and a snake road. The nearby Jewel Branch, another creek that ran north to meet the Big Eastatoe, was also logged with the tram road method.

Logging operations were typical for a mountain logging line. One or two engines left Pickens in the morning with a train of five to six empty cars. Several of the loggers, who stayed in town, clung to the sides of the Shay or rode in the empty logging cars to reach the camps. At each camp, the train dropped off a pair of cars and proceeded to the end of the line. The second train, if run, headed up Smith Creek to that camp. Other engines that were left in the woods worked the other rail spurs. As the day progressed, a crew gathered three or four cars with the Shay and headed back to Pickens. This crew then returned with more empties. At the end of the day, two trains with no more than four cars returned to Pickens where the process began again the next day.

All of the locomotives seem to have been Lima Shays lettered on the side of the tender for Appalachian Lumber. Ezra and Poe Ratliff were the regular engine crew on one of the locomotives. Six Shays operated, although local opinion varies from two to four. At least three Shay engines were transferred to the Appalachian operation and are well documented.

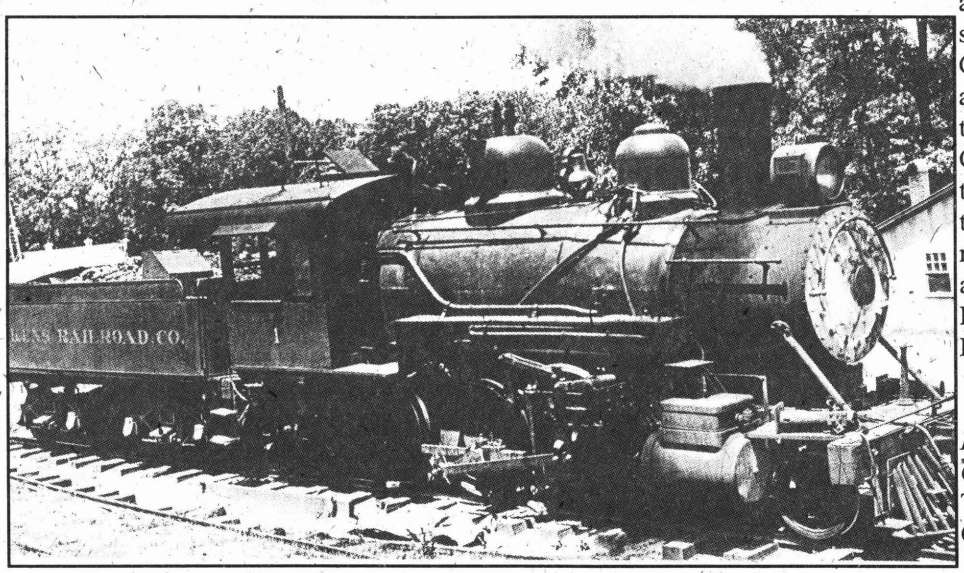
Most of the better jobs at Appalachian Lumber were filled by experienced men, who had come down to the area from Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky, while the local men held less demanding jobs. The company operated the logging line seven days a week at the beginning, although local custom was to observe Sunday as a day of rest. One of the engines broke down on a Sunday run after several months, and the problems in restoring service was so difficult that the line never again attempted to operate on Sundays.

One of the evening trains was returning from the camps ahead of the second train when one of the trestles on the line

Logging *continued*

collapsed, just after the train passed. The second train was isolated from Pickens Mill and had to return to the camp at Eastatoe until the trestle was rebuilt. The smaller trestles were made of raw timber while the larger trestles were built of cut lumber fashioned into a framework to support the trains.

Appalachian Lumber used the "clear cutting" method of timber removal. Some 8,000 acres of timberland in the watersheds of Reedy Cove Creek, Cane Creek and Side-of-Mountain Creek were cleared by this method. While a written description of the line may not clearly reveal the ruggedness of the country in which Appalachian logged, the proximity of Sassafras Mountain, the highest in South Carolina at 3,548 feet above sea level, to the camp at Side-of-Mountain Creek was estimated to be little more than a mile. The 35-mile line had one grade of 10 percent, 5.3 percent steeper than nearby Saluda Grade.



With a full head of steam, the Pickens' #1 waits in front of Bivens Lumber Company on July 14, 1936, at Pickens, South Carolina.

Appalachian Lumber was only active for a little more than two years. On June 7, 1929, the company entered receivership. The lumber at the Pickens Mill was sold to pay debts, and the land and possessions of the Appalachian Lumber Company were sold to George A. Hume of Carolina Timber Company. Carolina Timber Company took possession of the entire plant and equipment of the Appalachian Lumber Company including all unexpired insurance, supplies, coal, appraisals, abstracts, maps, office equipment, records, surveyor's instruments, buildings, fixtures, merchandise, tools, machinery, motors, engines, rails, cars and other items.

Hume also owned the Pickens Railroad with its equipment and a firm known as Keowee Realty Company. The land that formed the right of way for the logging railroad reverted back to the original owners under the terms of Appalachian Lumber's agreement with them; the 30 miles of logging railroad were never operated again.

Carolina Timber brought the Shays and the logging cars back to Pickens where they sat in the yards at Town Creek until 1940, when they were scrapped for the war effort. The rails were not entirely idle during these years, however. Denton Castle, the former head cook at Little Estatoe (Estatoe gradually came to replace Eastatoe as the preferred spelling of this Cherokee Indian word that means "Green Bird"), was hired by Carolina Timber to continue to live at the camp and prevent vandalism of the property. Once a week, Castle operated a small motorized handcar over the logging road to Pickens to check the condition of the line and to pick up supplies. Carolina Timber actively operated the mill at Town Creek using timber that was trucked to the mill, and owned and operated the Pickens Railroad.

Poinsett Lumber Company

The Singer Company operated a small lumber operation in Pickens County since 1926 known as Poinsett Lumber Company. In 1939, Singer decided to expand its operations in Carolina by purchasing the former Appalachian Lumber Company Mill from Carolina Timber and some 60,000 acres of timberland that was part of Pickens and Oconee counties. The company then built a huge 250,000 square foot manufacturing plant to fabricate and assemble sewing machine cabinets. Singer also purchased control of the Pickens Railroad, but operated it under a separate management. Although the Singer Company realized the value of the Pickens Railroad in shipping cabinets to its plants in the North, the company had no interest in the logging line that was dormant for a decade. Poinsett, like Carolina Timber, relied on motor trucks to haul the logs in to the plant over the new black-topped state and county roads and its own logging trails.

Greenville & Northern Railway

The other lumber line in the Blue Ridge Mountains was the Greenville & Northern Railway, which took over the former Greenville & Western Railroad on January 3, 1920. The railroad owners and its story remain for another time.

Member's Page

Thank you very much to all of our members who recently renewed their membership dues, as well as those who gave generously. These donations are used to support the Chattooga River Watershed Coalition's programs, as well as to help cover the costs of publishing and mailing the ***Chattooga Quarterly***. Our most recent contributors are named below; again, **Thank You!**

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March through May 1998

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Membership expiration dates are printed in red; **please renew if you would like to continue receiving the *Chattooga Quarterly*.** Also, don't forget to notify us if your address changes, as the *Chattooga Quarterly* will not be forwarded.

Watershed Update

In the Chattooga River watershed's Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia, much of the intensive timber extraction program here is temporarily stalled due to pending decisions in Federal Court. In South Carolina's Sumter National Forest and North Carolina's Nantahala National Forest, a number of timber harvesting operations (described in previous editions of the Chattooga Quarterly) are poised to begin. We encourage citizens to stay abreast of opportunities to submit timely comments on proposed actions for our public lands; contact your local Ranger District to get on their mailing list to receive news, and to follow progress on the ongoing Forest Plan revisions. The staff of the Chattooga River Watershed Coalition is glad to guide citizens in interpreting agency paperwork!

Jocassee Gorges

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) has released a very vague management plan for that portion of the Jocassee Gorges recently acquired by the state. Two pending decisions related to the plan may be of greater importance: the first is the possible designation of the Gorges as a Heritage Trust Preserve; the second is a more detailed forest management plan specific to timber harvesting. South Carolina residents: please write or call your Statehouse Representative and support the whole area being managed as a State Heritage Trust Preserve.

West Fork

A Federal Judge has issued a temporary restraining order to prevent the new owners of the "Nicholson Tract" on the West Fork of the Chattooga River from prohibiting the public from floating down this section of the river. A final ruling is pending. In the interim, the Chattooga River Watershed Coalition (CRWC) is working with private interests towards acquisition of the property. If you know of anyone who would like to contribute to this effort, please have them contact the CRWC office.

Bull Pen Road

Residents of the Bull Pen community in the Chattooga River's North Carolina headwaters are split over a proposal by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to pave a section of the Bull Pen Road that crosses the Chattooga River between Cashiers and Highlands, North Carolina, above the Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area. The CRWC is working with property owners in the area to develop a proposal that would allow paving to alleviate current safety and water sedimentation problems, and would do so without significantly widening the road to also preserve the rural and visual character of the area.

Cullasaja Club Permit

Citizens of the Norton Mill Creek community in the Chattooga River's North Carolina headwaters are working with the CRWC to restore the water quality of Norton Mill Creek. The group is working to hold the NC Department of Water Quality to a previous agreement, which would enforce a provision in the Cullasaja Club's sewage treatment facility permit mandating the use a spray irrigation system to discharge treated effluent on to their golf course. Norton Mill Creek is a trout stream flowing through Whitesides Cove into the headwaters of the Chattooga River; currently, Norton Mill Creek is the repository for all of the Cullasaja Club's sewage.

Latest Congressional Threat to the LWCF

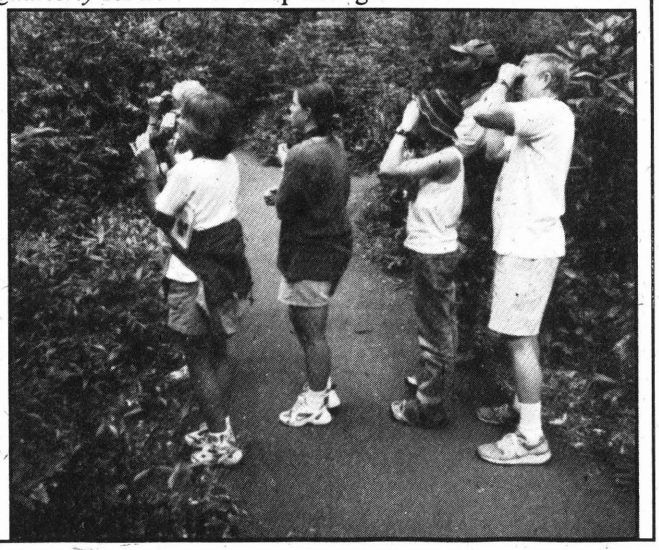
The Republican leadership is proposing a budget that would eliminate all funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for fiscal year 1999 and the foreseeable future. Please contact Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich as well as your Senators and Representatives to let them know that you support continued and generous budget appropriations for the Land & Water Conservation Fund.

CRWC & "Anyplace Wild" on PBS Television

Read your TV guide for August! The CRWC will be featured on Public Television's program named "Anyplace Wild". CRWC Executive Director Buzz Williams is the guest host for this program, which will explore some of the contemporary threats to the Chattooga River. There's also a bit of whitewater action, so stayed tuned!

CRWC Workshops

Our educational workshops thus far this year have been quite informative, fun and well-attended. Pictured below are enthusiastic "birders" looking to catch a glimpse of the common Yellow-Throat near the East Fork of the Chattooga River. Many thanks to Dr. J. Drew Lanham, who conducted the Bird Identification workshop, as well as John Womack, teacher for the Nature Photography workshop. Remember to check the next issue of the *Chattooga Quarterly* for new workshop listings.



Chattooga River Watershed Coalition

We are a 501C3 non-profit organization. incorporated in Georgia.

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Buzz Williams

Development Director
Nicole Hayler

Administration & GIS
Cindy Berrier

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Renewal ☐

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Join the Coalition and help protect the Chattooga River Watershed.
Your contribution is greatly appreciated. Donations will be used to support the Coalition's work, and guarantee you delivery of the *Chattooga Quarterly*. We're a non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

THANK YOU!

Name_____
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Individual: $14 ☐ Group: $27 ☐

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P.O. Box 2006
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Chattooga River Watershed Coalition

PO Box 2006
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(706) 782-6097
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Purpose:
"To protect, promote and restore the natural ecological integrity of the Chattooga River watershed ecosystem; to ensure the viability of native species in harmony with the need for a healthy human environment; and to educate and empower communities to practice good stewardship on public and private lands."

Made Possible By:
CRWC Members and Volunteers
Turner Foundation, Inc.
The Moriah Fund
Lyndhurst Foundation
Patagonia, Inc.
Town Creek Foundation
Merck Family Fund
Alex Walker Foundation
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
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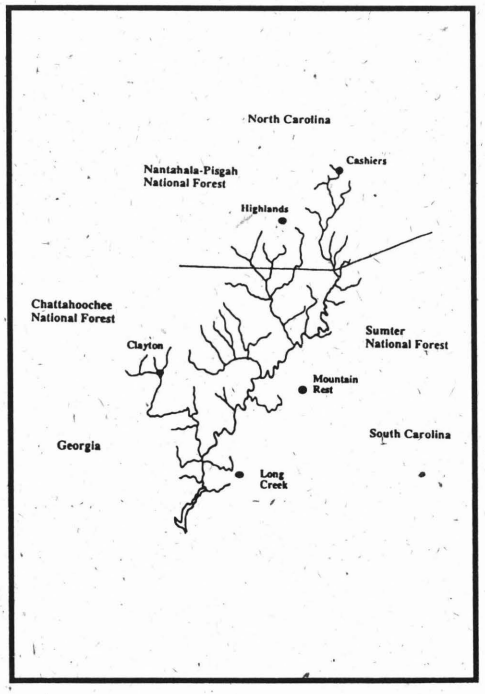

Goals:

Monitor the U.S. Forest Service's management of public forest lands in the watershed

Educate the public

Promote public choice based on credible scientific information

Promote public land acquisition by the Forest Service within the watershed

Protect remaining old growth and roadless areas

Work cooperatively with the Forest Service to develop a sound ecosystem initiative for the watershed

Chattooga River Watershed Coalition
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